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## THE NATIONAL ERA.

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## THE MOTHER-IN-LAW.

ASTORY OF THE ISLAND ESTATE.

BY MISS EMMA D. E. SOUTHWORTH.

BOOK THIRD.

VI.

LOUIS AND SUSAN.

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reunited their seats, and then, for the first time, Louis noticed her glances.

"What is the matter, Susan?" he inquired, smiling.

"Matter?" replied Susan, more disturbed than ever.

"But there it is, dear Susan. I have never—never seen you so agitated!"

Susan's brow flushed to crimson, and she turned her head aside. Louis took her hand, pressed it, and bending forward, looked searchingly into her eyes.

"Susan, I never had a sister, but you are dear to me as never before—my loved Susan, tell me what disturbs you."

"I am so sorry that you risked your health by exposing yourself to this storm!" replied Miss Somerville, with a benevolent evasion.

Louis pressed her again, and she dropped her head. Louis then arose and resumed his seat—and took his hat.

Miss Somerville started up. "What! Louis, you do not think of venturing out in this horrible tempest?"

"Assuredly, Susan!"

"But why not, indeed? Pull off your cloak, sit down, remain here. I will have a fire lighted in my grandfather's room for you."

"Do you not understand that I must return, Susan?"

"Not so! you are mad to think of it. You should not have come at first—but being here, you shall not depart in the midst of the night and storm!"

"But my dearest Susan!"

"Sit down—be quiet—don't fight me—I have had trouble enough on your account already—sit down! I am out of breath!"

Instead of sitting down, Louis opened the door, and, with a look of defiance, he stood before her, and again it took all his strength to force the door. He shut it, and throwing off his cloak, sat down. It was literally impossible to reach the fire of Ray's that night.

"For Heaven's sake, Susan, what are all your glances, you are very audacious on some things!"

"Very, very audacious on some things, Louis! Yes, I am wild!"

"No, Susan, I am not wild. I am only a poor, old, invalid, and I am not to be trifled with."

"And so Miss Somerville tried to think, but as she remembered the censorious propensities of the neighborhood, the sinking of her breast belied her words. Nevertheless, Miss Somerville, by turning a guest out in the storm, would not be a wrong, to escape the imputation of wrong."

"Mr. Louis, I will trouble you for a half hour's conversation with me in my study," said General Stuart-Gordon, rising from the breakfast table, pushing back his chair, and leading the way thither.

Louis arose and followed.

"When they had arrived there, and were seated, the General said to Louis, 'You have been very kind to come here to-night, Susan, what are all your glances, you are very audacious on some things!'"

"The threatened storm should have prevented your coming, Susan, and I should have been very sorry to see you."

"Louis bowed, and remained silent."

"You remained all night at the Crags, Louis? Well, this case is a climax! If you do not consider the question intrusive, Louis, will you favor me with your opinion?"

"I went thither to see Miss Somerville, sir."

"Hum! you went thither to see Miss Somerville, Louis, I am not a hypocrite, Susan, but I am a hypocrite."

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be married on the 22d of the current month, to the Right Honorable James, fourth Earl of Clonmarch, immediately after the ceremony, the newly-married couple will depart for New York, whence they will set by the first packet to England. I accompany them."

With due respect,

HORTENSE BLACKSTONE ARMSTRONG.

Whenever Louis received a wound, his instincts sent him to Susan Somerville, to have it dressed. So, as soon as he had received this cruel blow, that he needed the gentle girl whose kind words and soft tones and glances had won him to soothe his excited mind. He placed the letter in his father's hand, and stood, cap and riding-whip in hand, waiting for him to read it.

"You are going to the Crags, Louis, I suppose," said Susan, with a benevolent evasion.

And returning the letter.

"I am, sir."

"You remember your promise, Louis—never to reveal to any one the contents of the letter which I have just handed to you?"

"I remember it, sir, and I go for that purpose."

"It is well."

"Susan—Susan Somerville—I know that I am utterly unworthy of you! I am a bowed, miserable, wretched man! You are free, strong, and healthy, and I am a weak, feeble, and infirm man! I am a poor, old, invalid, and I am not to be trifled with."

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